

**Northeast District Council
Wedgwood Presbyterian Church
8008 35th Ave NE
November 1, 2012
Meeting Minutes**

Members in Attendance: Tony Provine (Ravenna-Bryant), Gabrielle Gehrhard (Windermere North), Jenny Frankl (Seattle Dept of Neighborhoods), Sue Hildreth (University Park), Steve Wilkins (U District Community Council), Ken Sparks (Inverness), Jeannie Hale (Laurelhurst), Cisca Wery (Matthews Beach Community Club), Matt Hoehnen (Roosevelt Neighbors' Alliance), Adrienne Karls and Peter Zimmerman (Residents of Magnuson Park), Nicolette Bromberg (Belvedere Terrace), Nancy Bolin (Wedgwood), Martin Roth and John Adams and Michele Cole (Roosevelt Neighborhood Association)

Guests: Alex Pederson, legislative assistant to councilmember Tim Burgess, Ravenna resident
Edna Shim, Seattle Children's Hospital

Public Comment: None

Announcements:

Jeannie Hale: A developer by the last name Dufus has been building 3-story in-fill residences on 1800 sq ft sections of SF5000 lots. The city has put in effect a moratorium while it studies this issue.

Nancy Bolin: The Mayor will attend a Wedgwood Town Hall meeting Nov 3. The moderator will randomly call on attendees who have questions for the mayor. This replaces the traditional procedure of establishing a queue that is first come first serve that historically has favored early attendees. See announcement 1.

Alex Pederson: The mayor is considering the budget. Additions may include health and human services items. See handout. www.seattle.gov/council/budget shows meetings for the rest of the budget season. Six meetings remain. Councilmember Tim Burgess is the new budget chair. Burgess favors getting more police on the streets and tending to the most needy. Burgess reports the North Precinct will be rebuilt in 2016 rather than 2019. Sue Hildreth asked about colocation of North Precinct with new UW police station, which appears mired in budgets. The two stations appear to have separate rebuilding plans.

CNC Report:

Tony Provine reports the CNC approved their budget letter, which is available on the CNC website. CNC's Neighborhood Matching Funds recommendations were submitted to city council for approval. This involves dispersal of approximately \$1.4 million. 15 of 22 projects recommended for approval. Of those 15, 3 are in the Northeast District.

- P-patch East entrance U Hts. Requested \$99,974. Recommended the same.
- Yesler Swamp Trail. Requested \$80,000. Recommended \$64,000.
- Nights at the Neptune. Requested \$94,320. Recommended \$75,466.

An alternative to Alcohol Impact Area designation is a voluntary ban program. Pilot program involving all retailers selling alcohol in areas prone to public inebriation. Areas include: Pioneer Square, Beacon Hill, SoDo, Lake City. Voluntarily ban the sale for off-premises consumption of single serve malt liquor and fortified wine between 6am and 1pm. These areas are not automatically alcohol impact areas, though they can apply for such designation. Retailers vary in compliance.

CNC officers nominated: Phil Shack (chair) Ed Marquez (vice chair) and Jody Grage (secretary)

CNC is seeking committee members. Consult website, or contact Tony Provine, Phil Shack, or Ed Marquez. Seattle Planning Commission to encourage up-zoning within a 5 or 10 minute walk of transit stops (not just light rail). Non-urban-village areas, like Ravenna Bryant and perhaps any neighborhood within the Northeast District with nearby public transit, could also be impacted. It's ambiguous at this point. This excludes areas already designated urban villages.

Neighborhood Street Fund (Bridging the Gap Fund):

Check in and project inventory. Dec 17, 2012 is the deadline for proposals. See

<http://sdblog.seattle.gov/2012/09/25/what-would-improve-your-neighborhood/>.

Anyone got projects? NEDC votes on 3 projects total from NE district. If there are other projects in the works, we want to be aware of them early. Two proposals are underway, and a few other neighborhoods are considering certain projects.

1. Laurelhurst has a sidewalk repaving project near a school.
2. Roosevelt to fund development of a green street in front of Roosevelt High School along 65th from 15th to the freeway.

Incidentally, two short north-south streets (14th Ave NE and Brooklyn Ave NE short blocks between NE 65th St and NE 66th St) allow wider view corridors from the high school south toward downtown. Recall that the recent upzoning along NE 65th St will cause redevelopment to block views from the high school south toward downtown. Tony commends John Adams' efforts working with developers on compromises for making the Roosevelt scenario much better than it could have been.

Jeannie believes we should find out what constitutes a green way, since none of the greenways ideas / projects abide by any rules, as there are none. Tony mentions there are lots of groups working on greenways.

3. Matthews Beach is considering two ideas, but no one has taken on writing a proposal.

Add stairs at either end of the Burke-Gillman overpass.

Add a bus stop at NE 95th St and 45th Ave NE with nowhere to stand.

NEDC members' response: Stairs may be a good candidate for Bridging the Gap (>\$100k range).

The bus stop may not qualify because it would likely be a lesser expenditure.

Sound Transit requests 30 month noise variance for University and Roosevelt light rail station construction:

Steve Wilkins, UDCC: Sound Transit requests a noise variance from the City of Seattle in support of light rail station construction. The variance asks for the right to 24x7 construction for 30 months. Three monitoring sites will be placed at station sites. However, truck traffic is not accountable to that

monitoring. Steve drafted a letter suggesting ways to modify the truck traffic and monitoring that is conducive to residents of several neighborhoods to be affected by construction and truck traffic. Steve motioned that NEDC endorse his letter. Jeannie seconded. John Adams suggested trying to reduce the volume of the truck traffic, rather than number of trucks. Martin Roth mentioned having had a long meeting with Sound Transit regarding excavation, trucks, etc. Matt and Steve will make reasonable amendments to the letter as discussed by the NEDC this evening. Motion approved.

Round Robin:

John Adams: RNA (Roosevelt Neighborhood Association) is rewriting its neighborhood design guidelines, which they hope will direct the future development in the neighborhood. RNA and Ravenna Bryant worked with the developer of the old fruit stand location to create two replacement buildings on 65th between 14th and 15th Ave instead of just one. This modulation affords views between the buildings northward to the high school. Developers are actively seeking neighborhood advice. Similarly, on the west side of Roosevelt north of 65th, two buildings are being erected rather than one. They're keeping the height down below the 85 foot maximum. These are apartments. Estimate one to two years before the market is saturated with apartments.

Michelle Cole, also of the RNA, is writing a proposal seeking a grant from the Office of Economic Development.

Peter Zimmerman: Public housing project at Sandpoint way and 70th. Building 9 is slated to house 100+ market rate apartments. Peter would prefer to see affordable housing here. He is not happy about them being market rate, but something needs to be done or the building will need to be torn down. Building 9's façade will remain unchanged. Peter is working to get some of the housing designated for veterans. Building 11 law suit doesn't happen until next hear. Hangar 30 received significant funding ~\$10M. Meet the mayor in Magnuson on Saturday.

Cisca Wery: Matthews Beach has challenges in effective intra-neighborhood communication. They have a Yahoo group and a Google group. The elderly are often not on email. Could we have a flyer box to pick up hardcopies? They wonder if they are alone in this problem. Gabrielle has the same questions. Tony agrees. Some prefer a group over a list. A group allows members to freely respond at will, but some argue that the message gets watered down amidst the banter as the conversation takes nonsense tangents that are not of general interest to the community. A listserv is typically moderated, which restricts responses. Further discussion followed:

Seattle Communities Online has stagnated. Roosevelt Neighborhood Association has a facebook page. RNA tries to maintain a newsworthy blog.

Jeannie Hale: Laurelhurst uses Constant Contact software to send email to 1800 subscribers. It personally addresses each recipient separately and tracks those who subscribe and unsubscribe. The \$100/year cost is worth the time savings. Laurelhurst tries to send only one message per month so folks don't unsubscribe due to too much volume. The Laurelhurst blog has 300 subscribers.

Ken Sparks: Inverness uses a Google group for 100 residences. This has worked for keeping abreast of crime. Ken lamented that our group has a long history of fighting the Parks Dept. He worries that monies for restoration may go toward padding Parks Dept's coffers.

Steve Wilkins: www.UDistrictSquare.org is a new website espousing Phil Thiel's Brooklyn station plaza proposal. Note: the Brooklyn station has been renamed the University station.

Street cars appear to be getting crammed down our throats. Having a street car line in the Northeast district would alter 7x busses. Further discussion followed:

Alex Pederson: This is called the Eastlake line (U District – Eastlake – SLU). This is the least favorite street car line the city is considering. The cost of crossing the University Bridge would be significant. It may be helpful to send mail to council@seattle.gov stating opposition to this streetcar. The budget will be approved before the next NEDC mtg.

Steve motioned that the NEDC send a letter requesting that the Eastlake streetcar not be considered as part of the Seattle master plan. Please draft letter, send to Jeannie who offers to format it. Seconded. Approved.

Sue Hildreth: Reported on the recent U District.Next meeting at the Hotel Deca. A panel of neighborhood planners expressed enthusiasm for transit oriented development that isn't all bad, can create value to fund other improvements – essential components of livability. The second of three meetings is Dec 6. See <http://www.udnext.com/About> for more information. Jeannie will be happy to include these meetings in her monthly neighborhood events list. Peter offered that developers get tens of millions of dollars in tax credits by providing affordable housing.

Gabrielle Gerhard: The Windermere North neighborhood is engaging in neighborhood preparedness via Map Your Neighborhood. Doing this in January. Search online "Map Your Neighborhood".

Tony Provine: The Mayor plans a tour of Ravenna on Sat, Dec 1.

Jenny Frankl passed around hardcopies of items on Jeannie's announcement handout.

December Meeting Planning:

December 6, 7-9pm. Dinner provided, as is customary for the December meeting. Guests: Food Bank & Roots. Bring food and/or clothing to donate in order to qualify for two prizes offered by Jeannie. Keep business off the December agenda.

Future Agenda Items:

State route 520 expansion.

Community Technology Team – would it be helpful to have someone come talk about intra-community communication? Jenny to see if there are resources. John Adams has been using the city's listserv for a while now; it's appropriate for small groups.

Neighborhood Matching Fund grants cannot fund staff, but can fund a consultant.

Review Bridging the Gap projects. What homework do we need to do before this meeting? Jenny to look into this.

Green streets. Maybe Feb/Mar before the Parks and Streets proposals are due.

Invite someone for the Seattle Planning Commission to talk about their vision for Transit-Oriented-Development

Meeting adjourned at 9pm